

June 29, 2004

Senator Edward Vincent, Chair
Senate Governmental Organization
Capitol Building #2203
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO AB 2406 (Bermudez)

Dear Senator Vincent:

The City of Santa Barbara respectfully Opposes AB 2406, which requires the State Fire Marshal to compare our fire department's NFIRS reports (which would include specific response time and staffing objectives) to the highly controversial Standard 1710 adopted in 2001 by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA 1710). Unfortunately, this standard was opposed by most local officials in California, including the City of Santa Barbara, because it is a one-size-fits-all policy that is unsuitable for our jurisdiction.

AB 2406 would be burdensome for our fire department in terms of incident reporting and have unknown impacts on already limited financial resources.

AB 2406 will also increase the potential for liability for our community as we will be measured against an arbitrary standard set forth by NFPA 1710.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Fire Chief Warner McGrew at (805) 965 5254.

Sincerely,

Marty Blum
Mayor

cc: Assembly Member Rudy Bermudez
Assembly Member Hannah-Beth Jackson
Senator Tom McClintock
Senate Governmental Organization Committee Members
Dan Carrigg, League of California Cities
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
Warner R. McGrew, Fire Chief
Council Members

